

Higher Education

Overbooked College Computer Labs Make the Grade

Imagine 3,800 students competing for the use of 350 computers, sprinkled across a vast college campus in eight different labs, and you begin to understand the headaches that Leroy Sterner faced as Manager of User Services at York College. In today's academic halls of higher learning, if you don't have the computer power to compete you're not only going to quickly fall behind in class, you're going to lose students and faculty.

When York College looked at its computer future in the new millenium, it didn't like what it saw...students, faculty and administrators paralyzed by user-induced IT trauma as they tried to share hundreds of computers among thousands of people. The campus IT system was struggling to provide faster service, to more users, spread across a larger area. If the growing problem of system down time wasn't addressed, the liberal arts college would be faced with repercussions ranging from declining admissions applications to disgruntled, tenured professors.

Once Sterner joined the rest of the world in breathing a collective sigh of relief that Y2K had passed uneventfully, he realized he had another problem: A campus filled with curious, learning, exploring young people creates a stimulating academic environment, but it can simultaneously create havoc with high tech. It wasn't lack of computer power that was hurting York; it was the blissfully ignorant minds deleting a critical file here and there that continued to shut down computers on a daily basis. With eight computer labs open and booked with near-continual use 17 hours per day, somebody was bound to make a mistake or two along the way.

The students weren't the only ones testing the IT department; faculty and administration personnel experienced their own self-induced paralysis. For a professor, nothing raises the stress level faster than when the IT guy appears at his office door with a screwdriver in hand, five minutes before class starts...and his lecture notes are inaccessible thanks to a frozen machine.

Challenge

The critical cure for York College lay in finding a fast, reliable and robust solution that provided relief for an overworked IT department, quickly solved computer melt-downs, and prevented interruptions to the pursuit of higher learning. York decided to put DataPort removable hard drive storage enclosures to the test, and they're quite happy to report five years of consistent grade A results.

DataPort V



Rugged Reliable Mobile Secure

DataPorts In Action DataPort V



"We simply couldn't compete with the demands of our students, faculty and administration without the DataPorts. It effectively cut our down time to the bare minimum."

Leroy Sterner
York College





Solution

Sterner and his team knew that removable hard drives would allow them to quickly replace any system that had been corrupted by an innocent user. After researching other competing brands, they selected DataPort removable hard drive enclosures and cut the average down time for a crippled computer to a mere six minutes. By popping in a DataPort, the corrupted drive could be hauled back to the shop for a more leisurely repair.

Sterner was already convinced he had landed on a smart solution, but the clincher was the ringing endorsement given by a leading computer manufacturer. York's IT department went on to build a system that today utilizes nearly 1000 DataPorts across campus, from the eight computer labs to faculty offices to wired classrooms and lecture halls.

York College standardized on the DataPort V, one of CRU-DataPort's best selling removable drive enclosures. DataPort Features include:

- Mounts in any available 5.25" half height bay (PC or MAC), makes any standard 3.5" hard drive easily removable and protects the drive during transport and storage.
- A powered key-lock prevents unauthorized removal during use and a rear-mounted quiet operation fan keeps high speed drives running cool.
- DataPorts are designed to withstand frequent use and include gold-plated DIN mating connectors rated for 25,000 insertions.
- DataPorts support IDE, SATA or SCSI drives, are available in black or beige and are backed by the industry's leading 10-year warranty.

"We simply couldn't compete with the demands of our students, faculty and administration without the DataPorts," said Sterner. "It effectively cut our down time to the bare minimum. DataPorts also allow us to feature 'Smart Classrooms' utilizing computers as a key learning tool integrated with audio visual systems. Before DataPorts were on campus, those 'Smart Classrooms' usually required one of my IT people to babysit the lecture with a screwdriver and a mountain of patience. Thankfully, that scene will never be repeated."

About York College

York College is a dynamic private liberal arts college community of 4,300 full-time students located in south central Pennsylvania. Consistently ranked as a top regional value by U.S. News and World Report, York offers 50 baccalaureate degree programs in the arts and sciences, as well as master's degrees in Nursing, Education and Business Administration. York's 15:1 student-to-faculty ratio combined with an expansive internship program produces a 90 percent placement rate for graduates in their chosen careers. For more information about York College, visit:

www.ycp.edu

About CRU-DataPort

Founded in 1986 and based in Vancouver, WA, CRU-DataPort develops and markets computer data security and storage devices. The company's DataPort brand of removable hard drive enclosures has become the de facto standard for physical data security and drive removal in government, education and corporate information technology departments. CRU-DataPort products are available through major distributors, OEMs, VARs and a host of resellers and systems integrators throughout the United States and abroad. For more information about CRU-DataPort, visit:

www.CRU-DataPort.com



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